

was an article in the Lincoln paper this morning about the decisions that are being made in some of the oil producing states in regard to the revenues and the resulting spending activities where they are on Thursday laying off 4,000 Oklahoma school teachers, and the Department of Human Services will begin to furlough nearly 9,000 workers without pay for at least one day a month, and so on, the states that are being affected by the oil industry. Well, we, I guess the good news is that we never had an oil industry that to really be basing our revenue upon that particular industry but we do have the problems in agriculture, and I think that we should seriously consider this adjournment until that point that we have the revenues in hand to count, upon which also to make projections. Now that goes beyond the effects of this particular amendment and what it does. I do not intend to support a half cent increase on the sales tax. If we are forced to increase a tax, I intend to look somewhere else other than the half cent on sales. I urge you to reject this amendment. I also urge you to consider the fact that we are operating without full knowledge of all revenues that we can acquire by adjourning until April 15th at some point, perhaps today. Thank you.

SENATOR CARSTEN: Thank you. Senator Smith, please.

SENATOR SMITH: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I rise to support Senator Warner as co-sponsor of this amendment which would increase the sales tax by one-half cent from 3 1/2 cents to 4 cents which would raise approximately 42 million over 11 months. I hope you all listened to what Senator Warner had to say regarding our reasons for offering this amendment to you. We are all aware of the shortfall in revenues as well as the proposed budget that we have before us this year, and this attempt is to fund that need. I support this form of tax over all other kind of taxes as I always have because it has been shown over and over again that the population of the state support this form of tax over all other kind of taxes. I, like you, would prefer no tax increase if we had a choice, but I am prepared to support this as my best alternative should a tax increase become necessary. Thank you.

SENATOR CARSTEN: Thank you. Senator Chambers, please.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. Chairman and members of the Legislature, I am opposed to this increase in the sales tax as I have always been opposed to increases in the sales tax. We use the term "regressive" with reference to taxation and the meaning of the